



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tule Lake Unit,
World War II
Valor in the Pacific
National Monument

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Tule Lake Unit WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2013

NPS to Hold Public Meetings in Sacramento and Bay Area to Plan for New National Monument at Tule Lake

TULELAKE, California— Japanese Americans living on the West Coast were forcibly removed and incarcerated in remote camps during World War II without being charged of any crime. Bringing that part of our nation's history to light in a meaningful and comprehensive way is the challenge facing the National Park Service at the Tule Lake Unit of WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument in northern California.

The National Park Service will hold public workshops in Sacramento, Berkeley, San Francisco, and San Jose to open a national dialogue about Tule Lake's future. This dialogue will result in a General Management Plan which identifies how to effectively protect the site and educate the public about this chapter in American history.

The Tule Lake Unit preserves the site of the Tule Lake Segregation Center, which was one of 10 camps where 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. Designated in 2008 by President George W. Bush, the purpose of the Tule Lake Unit is to preserve, study, and interpret the history and setting of the incarceration of Japanese Americans at Tule Lake during WWII. Between 1942 and 1946, over 29,000 people of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated there, and it was the largest population center in California north of Sacramento. Two thirds of those incarcerated at Tule Lake were US citizens.

"The NPS is honored to be charged with telling and preserving such a challenging story for the American people. Public involvement in the planning for the Tule Lake Unit will make the new unit a group effort. Working together will help the story become relevant to more people, so it will never be forgotten," says Mike Reynolds, Superintendent of the Tule Lake Unit and Lava Beds National Monuments.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

The Sacramento and Bay Area meetings are the last of a series of 15 public workshops in California, Oregon, and Washington that began in June. Two virtual meetings are also being held in September, one of which took place on September 5. Each of these meetings is an opportunity to learn about the Tule Lake Unit, raise issues, provide ideas, and help define the future of the Tule Lake Unit. These meetings represent the “scoping” stage for the General Management Plan for the Tule Lake Unit. Anyone interested in attending is welcome.

Current information relevant to the GMP for the Tule Lake Unit is available at www.nps.gov/tule/parkmgmt. The public comment period will close on **October 11, 2013**. Comments can be sent to tule_superintendent@nps.gov

Meetings Are Scheduled as Follows:

Tuesday, September 17, 6-8pm
Sacramento, CA
Sierra II Center
2791 24th Street

Thursday, September 19, 10am-12pm
San Francisco, CA
Nihonmachi Terrace
1615 Sutter Street

Wednesday, September 18, 6-8pm
Berkeley, CA
David Brower Center
2150 Allston Way

Thursday, September 19, 6-8pm
San Jose, CA
Japanese American Museum of San Jose
535 North 5th Street

Tuesday, September 24, 3-5pm
Virtual Meeting*

*Virtual meeting web access information is posted on the [Tule Lake websites](#), Facebook page, and will be widely announced throughout the local areas.

For more information about visiting the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, call 530-260-0537, email tule_interpretation@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/tule.

NOTE TO EDITORS: PHOTOS AND MAPS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. Please call at Amanda Schramm at (206)220-4107 or e-mail tule_superintendent@nps.gov with your request.

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